

Message Text

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ORIGIN OES-07

INFO OCT-01 ARA-14 ISO-00 L-03 DOTE-00 SNM-05 DEAE-00
SSO-00 INRE-00 USIE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07
NSAE-00 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 TRSE-00 EB-08 /050 R

DRAFTED BY OES/OFA/FA:GCNELSON:CMC
APPROVED BY OES/OFA:MDBUSBY
L/OES - POLSEN(SUBS)
ARA/CAR - RSURBER(SUBS)
ARA/PAN - DWAGNER(SUBS)
ARA/CEN - DFIGGINS(INFO)
-----036199 270552Z /61

O P 262116Z JAN 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY PANAMA IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY NASSAU IMMEDIATE
INFO COMDT COGARD WASH DC PRIORITY

UNCLAS STATE 021498

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SNAR

SUBJECT: M/V PITER

1. SITUATION: A. THE PITER WAS SIGHTED BY THE US
COAST GUARD ON JAN 16, 1978 IN THE VICINITY OF MONA
PASSAGE OFF PUERTO RICO. THIS VESSEL WAS FLYING NO
FLAG, AND HAD NO HULL MARKINGS EXCEPT FOR THE NAME
PITER WHICH WAS DISPLAYED ON THE PILOT HOUSE. WHEN
APPROACHED BY THE COAST GUARD VESSEL, THE PITER
ADVISED THAT IT WAS REGISTERED IN BRITISH HONDURAS
WITH A HOMEPORT OF BELIZE. THE VESSEL THEN DISPLAYED
A BRITISH PROTECTORATE FLAG AND FURTHER ADVISED IT
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WAS ENROUTE GRAND BAHAMAS FROM SAN ANDREAS ISLAND FOR
REPAIRS. AT THIS TIME THE VESSEL PROCEEDED ON ITS
WAY NORTH AND THE COAST GUARD VESSEL RESUMED PATROL.
B. ON JAN 18 AMCONSUL BELIZE ADVISED THAT THE VESSEL
PITER WAS NOT REGISTERED IN BELIZE AND HAD NOT BEEN
THERE WITHIN THE PAST TWO YEARS.
C. ON JAN 25 THE PITER WAS AGAIN SIGHTED AT ANCHOR

ON LITTLE BAHAMA BANK APPROXIMATELY 40 MILES NORTH OF FREEPORT, GRAND BAHAMA ISLAND. THE VESSEL WAS BOARDED BY THE COAST GUARD ON THE BASIS OF BEING A STATELESS VESSEL. WHILE ATTEMPTING TO DETERMINE THE NATIONALITY OF THE VESSEL, APPROXIMATELY 300 TELEVISION BOXES WEIGHING ABOUT 40 POUNDS APIECE CONTAINING MARIJUANA, WERE FOUND. TWELVE COLOMBIAN CREW MEMBERS WERE FOUND ABOARD. CREW CLAIMED MASTER WAS ASHORE WITH SHIP'S PAPERS. LOCATION OF MASTER UNKNOWN.

D. FOLLOWING PAPERS AND INFORMATION FOUND: (1) LETTER IN SPANISH CONCERNING VESSEL JOHNNY EXPRESS. LETTER WAS FROM MR. JUAN LUGA TO MR. MAYOR MINA. LETTER APPEARS TO HAVE BEEN WRITTEN IN PANAMA AND IS DATED FEB 1, 1974. (2) SAFETY EQUIPMENT CHECK LIST ISSUED TO VESSEL CARIB QUEEN. PORT OF REGISTRY INDICATED AS NASSAU BAHAMAS. THIS WAS ISSUED AT THE REQUEST OF OWNER GRAND BAHAMAS SHIPPING COMPANY. THE INSPECTION WAS CONDUCTED AT PORT EVERGLADES, FL ON NOV 25, 1968. PAPER INDICATED GROSS TONNAGE 489, LENGTH 54.4 METERS, MAXIMUM PEOPLE ON BOARD 300, BUILT IN 1954. SAFETY SURVEY APPARENTLY CONDUCTED BY A FRENCH COMPANY NAMED BUREAU VERITAS OF NEW YORK, N.Y. SURVEYOR INDICATED AS H.F. WIERSCH AND APPROVAL SIGNED BY J. X. ERIBE, DISTRICT CHIEF. (3) PAPER OF FRENCH ORIGIN TO OWNER INDICATING OFFICIAL NUMBER AS 61167. VESSEL INDICATED AS CARIB QUEEN, OWNER AS GRAND BAHAMA SHIPPING CO. UNCLASSIFIED

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(4) QUARANTINE INSPECTION CERTIFICATE ISSUED TO M/V OLGA H. DATED AUG 2 AND SEP 3, 1977 BY REPUBLIC OF PANAMA. CERTIFICATE INDICATES METRICULA NO. 511, HOMEPORT COLON, PANAMA, MASTER SABAS PATERNINA.

(5) TWO DETACHABLE NAME BOARDS BEARING THE NAME OLGA H. WERE LOCATED IN THE CREWS QUARTERS.

(6) PASSENGER MANIFEST DATED MAY 27, 1977, ISSUED IN BARRANQUILLA COLUMBIA TO VESSEL OLGA H. CAPTIAN LISTED AS HUMBERTO MEDRAIAO GIL (ONE OF THE CREW MEMBERS). GIL SAID HE WAS CAPTAIN UNTIL AUGUST 1977 AND THAT OLGA H. FLEW A HONDURAN FLAG AT THAT TIME. GIL FURTHER STATED THAT THE VESSEL WAS SOLD AT THAT TIME AND HE WAS RELIEVED AS MASTER. GIL DOES NOT ADMIT TO KNOWING THE VESSEL'S PRESENT OWNER OR FLAG.

E. DESCRIPTION OF M/V PITER: 100-125 FEET LONG, HOLD AND CLOSED DECK COMPARTMENT AFT, WHITE DECK FORWARD, GREEN DECK ABOVE PILOT HOUSE.

F. M/V PITER IS BEING TAKEN TO PORT EVERGLADES FOR DETENTION AND IS SCHEDULED TO ARRIVE THERE AT 9AM EST JAN 27.

2. ACTION: POSTS ARE REQUESTED TO APPROACH HOST GOVERN-

MENTS AND ATTEMPT TO DETERMINE IF THIS VESSEL OR A VESSEL NAMED OLGA H., CARIBE QUEEN OR JOHNNY EXPRESS IS REGISTERED. ANY INFORMATION DEVELOPED REGARDING ANY OF THESE VESSELS INCLUDING MAIN BEAM NUMBERS WOULD BE APPRECIATED. PLEASE EXPEDITE REPLIES. VANCE

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: DRUG SEIZURES, COAST GUARDS, PITER M/V
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 26 jan 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 jan 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978STATE021498
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: GCNELSON:CMC
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780040-0313
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780118/aaaaaoyj.tel
Line Count: 121
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 353209e0-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN OES
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 15 feb 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3706597
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: M/V PITER
TAGS: SNAR, HO
To: TEGUCIGALPA PANAMA MULTIPLE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/353209e0-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
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